

OSWESTRY & BORDER CHRONICLE

Thursday, July 21, 2011

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Oswestry

Fun times at West Felton carnival

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Welshpool

All set for a showdown at festival

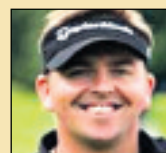
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Sport

Golfer Scott chips in for charity

Sport – Pages 92-96



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Boy's bus trip leads to action by police

A MAN HAS been cautioned for child neglect after a two and a half year old boy travelled alone from Montgomery to Shrewsbury on a bus.

The child got on with other passengers at Montgomery on June 20 and was only noticed when the bus reached its destination.

Dyfed-Powys officers questioned a man and a woman. The man was cautioned and no action was taken against the woman.

Nick Culliford, operations manager of Tanat Valley Motors, who operate the bus route, said it had been an amazing incident.

"It appears the child got onto the bus at Chirbury Road as a group of people were boarding.

"The driver was not aware of the child's presence until Shrewsbury.

"The driver did everything in the proper manner, taking the child to the Shrewsbury town centre police station. Nobody on board thought the child was on his own.

"It seems everyone thought he was with someone else.

"It was quite an amazing adventure for the youngster and luckily he was unharmed," he added.

Royal date at hospital

THE ORTHOPAEDIC Hospital at Oswestry was expecting a royal visitor today with Princess Alexandra set to tour the world famous centre.

The princess was due to visit the Torch Centre, which opened in 2008 supported by charitable funds.

The centre is dedicated to the comprehensive assessment of children with mobility problems, with an emphasis on families, help, research and knowledge. In particular it helps children with cerebral palsy and muscular dystrophy, as well as hereditary muscle and nerve disorders.

In recognition of 50 years support and fundraising, Princess Alexandra will also present a plaque to the League of Friends which will be displayed in the hospital's new entrance, which is due to be completed in the spring.

TRUST REVEALS MONORAIL BID

by Graham Breeze

AMBITIOUS PLANS to spend more than £90,000 to bring a monorail to Oswestry were unveiled this week.

Plans were announced by Dyffryn Tanat & Region Development Trust, based in Trefonen, to renovate engines, rail track and associated items for use in the town.

Richard Morris, from Blaenau Ffestiniog, has been collecting the items for more than 30 years and the trust plans to bring the monorail system to Oswestry.

There are over 150 engines in the collection, ranging from 1942 until the late 1960s, which were previously used for industrial purposes such as forestry, brickwork and sewerage work.

He also has an engine which featured in the James Bond film Dr No and the only monorail steam engine in the world in the collection.

Moveable

The trust hopes the collection will then be used or displayed at town events such as Take To The Streets, the food and drink festival and Heritage week.

There is about a mile and a half of moveable track which can be placed on ground level or built at various heights.

"It takes half an hour to lay 90 metres of track and only needs two people to carry each eight-foot section," said Chris Cox, secretary and project manager for the trust.

"The track has a stand and comes in various heights. You can make it go up and down and it can go over things. It is good for any event and could add to the attraction."

The trust is in talks with Park Hall Countryside Experience and Walford and North Shropshire College to find a place to store the equipment while it is being refurbished.

It will also be looking for a home for Mr Morris who would be lead engineer in the project.

The trust has been working on the scheme for about two and a half years and presented its idea to Shropshire Council on Tuesday night to ask the Market Towns Revitalisation Programme for £37,000 to help with the vision.

The overall project has been estimated to cost £92,500 with £55,500 paid for by donations. If given the cash the project could be up and running within six weeks.

Councillors recommended the idea with conditions that they could deliver.

Shropshire Councillor Keith Barrow said: "It is such an unusual thing, I think this is fantastic and a unique thing in the country."

The trust has six members with five organisations affiliated with the project.

Fury at decision to close schools



Above and below, staff, pupils and parents of Ifton School protest outside Shirehall in Shrewsbury. Pictures: Peter Shah

SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL is to close Maesbury School and Ifton Heath Primary to create an all-through school at Rhyn Park.

The council cabinet yesterday agreed to unanimously back the controversial plans to close the two schools as part of a major shake-up of education in the county.

Furious campaigners from Ifton Heath protested ahead of the meeting at Shirehall in Shrewsbury at which it was agreed their school should be resited at Rhyn Park. About 40 teachers, parents and pupils sang and waved placards with messages such as 'Save our School and You're Not Listening'.

Chairman of governors Julian Cattley said: "There really is strength of feeling. We have been fighting all the way and it's been a great challenge. We have tried to inform the council of what we could stand to lose. We have over 200 pupils so it's going to have a real impact."

Headteacher Nicola Bradley said: "The benefits of an all-through school are elusive.

There are not enough example schools for Ofsted to report a view."

She said parents were concerned about the effect Rhyn Park's debts would have on the education of children.

Mrs Bradley said parents of 84 children were willing to say on record that they would not send their youngsters to the school for both primary and secondary pupils.

Tony Milner, vice chairman of the governors at Maesbury Primary School, said the school would pursue academy status in a bid to move it out of local authority control.

He said the possible benefits of academy status included "no more interference by Shropshire councillors intent on furthering their own political ambitions at the possible expense of children's life chances".

Councillor Joyce Barrow said she had had sleepless nights over the Maesbury plan and governor David Jones said the school had been let down.

● Outrage – See Page 7

Street festival full of promise

MORE THAN 40 town centre businesses are committed to take part in this year's "Take To The Streets" event in Oswestry.

Building on the success of last year's launch event organisers promise a fun day with something for all the family on July 30.

"The aim of the event is to promote the diversity and strength of the independent traders in Oswestry, and celebrate what Oswestry has to offer in terms of retail, food, art and culture," said the organiser Wendy Unwin.

"This is a tremendous opportunity for people with a vested interest in Oswestry to pull together with other interested parties to really celebrate, promote, and sell Oswestry as an attractive retail and tourist destination."

There will be live music throughout the town with two main tents on the Market and Festival Square organised by The Ironworks showcasing a range of local musical talent.

Musicians will perform around the town along with street entertainers and dance demonstrations.

There will be story telling at Oswestry Christian bookshop and riding a bicycle to make a smoothie at Honeysuckle Wholefoods.

● Feature – Pages 20 & 21

Blaze hits town firm

FIREFIGHTERS tackled a blaze at Boys and Bodens builders' merchants in Welshpool yesterday, Wednesday.

Crews were called at 3.15pm and five appliances attended after flames were spotted in the roof space of part of the 70,000 sq ft building.

Dean Hammond, managing director praised firefighters for putting out the fire so quickly.

He said staff had been sent home but would return to work this morning, Thursday morning.

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CONTACT US

News: Graham Breeze

Tel: 01691 668094 E-mail: news@oswestrychronicle.co.uk

Sports: Alex James

Tel: 01691 668094 E-mail: sport@oswestrychronicle.co.uk

Oswestry photographic

Tel: 01691 668094 E-mail: news@oswestrychronicle.co.uk

Welshpool photographic

Tel: 01938 553319 E-mail: news@oswestrychronicle.co.uk

Advertising:

Alison Jukes

Tel: 01691 668090 E-mail: ajukes@shropshirestar.co.uk

Pauline Edwards

Tel: 01691 668092 E-mail: pedwards@shropshirestar.co.uk

Marcus Evans

Tel: 01691 668095 E-mail: marcusevans@shropshirestar.co.uk

Welshpool advertising:

Heidi Frost

Tel: 01938 553349 E-mail: hfrost@shropshirestar.co.uk

Distribution: Paul Jones

Tel: 01902 319537 E-mail: p.jones@expressandstar.co.uk

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Pair escape jail term after fight in street

AN OSWESTRY woman involved in a violent attack on a mother and daughter escaped custody when she appeared at Mold Crown Court.

Trainee accountant Katie Crouch, 20, from St Anne's Drive, Oswestry, and partner Daniel Meredith, 25, of Charles Street, Chirk, both admitted affray.

Meredith was given a 24 week prison sentence suspended for 12 months, ordered to carry out 150 hours unpaid work and observe a night time curfew and pay £500 compensation.

Crouch was given an 18 month community order to do 120 hours unpaid work, observe a two month night time curfew and pay £200 compensation.

Violence

Judge Nicolas Parry said Crouch had caused the incident. "You were drunk and looking for violence. You seem to see nothing wrong in settling differences by resorting to violence."

Mold Crown Court heard that the victims were Meredith's former partner Samantha Thomas and her mother Sharon Thomas.

Prosecutor Mr John Hedgecoe said that the complainants were walking towards The Hand Hotel in Chirk at night when the incident happened.

Samantha Thomas had previously been in a relationship with Meredith and his current partner was clearly unhappy about that and approached mother and daughter, the court heard.

Words were exchanged and Crouch went to strike Samantha Thomas but her mother Sharon pushed her away.

A fight developed between the mother and Crouch who ended up on top of her, punching her to the face. The daughter intervened and Meredith then became involved, kicking both to the head.

Two people approached to break it up and an ambulance was called.

Mr Matthew Dunford, for Meredith, said he was a window cleaner who played football for Chirk and who had acted out of character.

Mr Mark Connor, for Crouch, said that she had kept out of trouble for the last 10 months.

She was an ambitious young woman and most of her time was taken up by working and studying for her accountancy examinations during a day release course at Telford.

Bloom judges visit town



Heart of England in Bloom judges, Roger Batch and Mark Wiltshire meet Betty Gull and mayor Cynthia Hawksley before they judge Oswestry and, below, the judges' visit.

Pictures: Laura Duffield

BRITAIN IN Bloom judges were in Oswestry yesterday to see how the town measures up in the floral beauty stakes.

Committee members were up at the crack of dawn to ensure the town looked its best. Oswestry Town Council workers gave planters and hanging baskets a last-minute watering to ensure all was well for the judges' visit.

The town was hoping that the efforts of the past year would help win it another gold medal.

Despite being one of the smallest competitors in the large towns category in the Heart of England competition, Oswestry has won gold for several years.

The judges began their visit with a presentation about the work of the committee and the community in general.

Competitions in schools and work by local teenagers as well as a litter pick and anti-graffiti project by staff from Sainsbury's



have all taken place to help brighten up the town.

During the morning visit judges were being taken on a tour of several parts of the town from the industrial estate to the cemetery.

Some of the gardens that won awards in the Oswestry Town Council in bloom contest were on the judges' route.

Air service to expand

WALES AIR Ambulance is expanding its emergency service in Mid Wales from five to seven days a week.

The expanded service, costing an extra £300,000 a year, will operate for a trial period of six months with the aim of making it permanent. The charity said seven-day cover was vital in such a remote region.

Wales' third air ambulance was launched in Welshpool in 2006. The other two air ambulances, based in Caernarfon and Swansea, operate seven days a week. All three cost the charity £5m a year to keep in the air.

WAA is celebrating its 10th anniversary and has carried out more than 14,500 missions in Wales since St David's Day in 2001. Each mission costs about £1,500.

Money is raised through charitable donations, fundraising events and the charity's lottery.

Agents confirm interest in hotels

FOUR HOTELS which formed part of Oswestry businesswoman Stephanie Booth's empire have been put up for sale.

Real estate agents Colliers International has announced it has been instructed by administrators KPMG to market Bodidris Hall in Llandegla and The Wild Pheasant, Bryn Howel and The Chainbridge in Llangollen.

The hotels have more than 100 employees between them and are continuing to operate.

Llangollen Hotels Ltd and its parent company, Global Investments Group have been placed into administration.

Neil Thomson, director of Colliers International's Manchester office, said: "The hotels are very successful and profitable and we are seeking buyers to hopefully come in and take over. I can confirm there has been interest expressed in the hotels so far."

He said no timescale was in place for the offers, but he urged potential new owners to quickly register their interest, with offers to be made either for the group as a whole or for the individual assets.

The valuations of each hotel have so far not been released.

Delivering 8 new jobs

A WELSHPOOL company has created eight jobs at a depot to cater for its growing number of national and international customers.

Speed has invested in the depot at Henfaes Lane, and will now have 30 staff and a number of vehicles operating from the 40,000sq ft depot to service customers in the Powys and Shropshire postcode areas.

Speed Welshpool provides express deliveries of small consignments of goods across the UK and Europe.

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03 VAUXHALL AGILA 1.2 Red	SOLD
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03 PEUGEOT 206 GTI Black, half leather, alloys	£2999
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52 PEUGEOT PARTNER VAN Diesel	£1995

53 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4 White	£1500
53 SKODA FABIA 2.2 Estate	£2195
03 SKODA FABIA Silver, 5-door	£2650
52 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA Diesel	£2995
52 CITROEN XSARA HDI Diesel, Black	£2250
02 ROVER 25 IMPRESSION Silver, 46k	£1995
02 LAND ROVER FREELANDER 7 SERENGETI 65k, Silver	£2995
02 RENAULT CLIO 16V Blue	SOLD
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Two face assault charges

TWO MEN have appeared in court in connection with an alleged attack on an Oswestry pensioner in his own home.

Charles Green died a month after a burglary at his home in May.

On Monday Peter Marston, 23, of Stafford, and Danny Keeble, 25, of no fixed abode, appeared at Shrewsbury Crown Court charged with assaulting 87-year-old Mr Green at his home in Ambleside Road, Oswestry, on May 2.

The two men each face a charge of assaulting Mr Green with intent to rob and with entering his home as a trespasser.

They also each face a charge of stealing a passport, bank savings book and other papers when a person was subjected to violence.

The case was adjourned until September 9 for a plea and case management hearing and both men were remanded in custody.

Mr Green, a great-grandfather, received head, hip and arm injuries during the incident. He died in the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital on June 2.

Local firms on shortlist

WELSHPOOL FIRMS have been shortlisted for the Powys Business Awards with entries doubling this year.

Lee Evans of Powys County Council said: "These awards are a fantastic opportunity for businesses to raise their profile. Businesses are independently judged on their standards."

Web design specialists Gloversure and chartered accountants Turner

Peacey are shortlisted in the small business category while Gloversure are also in the young entrepreneur section. Skye Energy of Llanymynech and the Checkers Inn at Montgomery are on the start-up shortlist with aluminium diecaster Castalum of Welshpool listed for growth.

There will be an overall Business of the Year award.

Town could see a £775,000 investment in key projects

OSWESTRY COULD see £775,000 worth of investment brought to the town after plans for ambitious projects were considered for a share of more than £650,000 in funding.

Projects included revamping Oswestry showground, improving facilities at Oswestry rugby club and refurbishing the town's Powis Hall indoor market.

Representatives from a variety of town schemes made their case to Shropshire councillors on Tuesday night to be considered for a share of the funding from Shropshire Council's Market Towns Revitalisation Programme (MTRP).

Cafe scheme on alcohol is to be held

AN ALCOHOL AWARENESS project is being launched by the Oswestry Youth Cafe as part of its new summer holiday programme.

The project, which will run each Saturday from 6-9pm, starting on July 30, is for young people to meet the OYC outreach team members in the streets and discuss safe places to go and things to do.

Staff at the cafe have announced a full programme of summer activities which start this weekend.

There will be activities and events on every day of the week except Sundays and Mondays, for everyone aged from nine to 19.

Every Saturday a "drop-in" will be held from 1pm to 6pm with evening drop-ins from 6-9pm for 13-19 year olds.

Starting from July 30 a Saturday evening drop-in for 13 to 19 year olds will be held from 6p-9pm.

On Tuesdays there will be a weekly drop-in for nine to 19 year olds between 1pm and 8pm. This will be an 'activities session' where the young people can use the computer suite, play on the Wii, get involved in trading card gaming, play pool or choose other activities.

Wednesday evenings is reserved for "vet-eran" Firedrakes players, which is by invitation only and runs from 6-9pm.

Thursday is an open session from 3-8pm, and young people are invited to enjoy arts and crafts and purchase food from the canteen.

On Friday afternoons the cafe will be holding drop-ins from 1-5.30pm where anyone aged nine to 19 are invited to relax and chill out.

The cafe reopens at 6pm for Firedrakes and the table-top gaming continues until 9pm.

For more information on the OYC summer holiday programme contact Ian Wilson at the Oswestry Youth Cafe on 01691 656559.

The biggest bid for funds came from Oswestry and District Agricultural Society which called for £139,172 to help it with £149,172 plans to revamp the town's Park Hall showground.

Oswestry Rugby Club asked for £24,500 for a £31,000 improvement to facilities.

Oswestry Town Council called for £25,000 to help with refurbishing the market hall estimated to cost £145,000.

There was also a bid to fund half of a £100,000 project to create new technology which would give visitors and residents instant information about Oswestry through their mobile phones.

Worldwide

The area could also become the headquarters for a collection of industrial memorials. The Dyffryn Tanat and Region Development Trust is bidding for £37,000 to help with its £92,500 plan to bring what officials say could become a unique collection to Oswestry that could bring worldwide interest.

A bed and breakfast grant scheme to encourage more accommodation in the town asked for £75,000.

Shropshire Council also requested £10,500 to boost a £22,500 plan to bring clear sign posting into Oswestry.

Councillors Martin Bennett, Keith Barrow, Vince Hunt and Bill Benyon recommended all proposals go through to the next round of funding bids later this year.

Phil Jones, chairman of Oswestry and District Agricultural Society said: "Park Hall is a fantastic site and it is a fantastic opportunity to boost Oswestry's economy."

David Preston, Oswestry Town Council clerk, spoke on behalf of the Powis Hall project.

He said: "We believe that in Oswestry we are very fortunate to retain the market and so it is vitally important to invest in it. This is a very exciting time for the market."

After the meeting Councillor Barrow said: "It was a brilliant meeting. Oswestry will receive £775,000 of investment."

Mr Barrow said that the meeting had brought forward some interesting projects.

Councillor Hunt said: "I am extremely pleased with how the meeting went."

School's profitable harvest



Phoebe Davies and Logan Moughan, eco warriors from Whittington Primary School with a small selection of their school-grown vegetables. Picture: Laura Duffield

GREEN-FINGERED pupils at a school near Oswestry have been selling vegetables they have grown in the school garden.

The £50 raised at Monday's sale at Whittington Primary School will be ploughed back into its eco-schools project to make the children more aware of where their food comes from. It will be used to buy seeds to sow for more crops next year, said eco-school co-ordinator Paula Beaumont.

"We started our vegetable garden in the spring term and since then the school's eco-committee and the after school gardening club have been taking care of it," she said. A

huge range of vegetables were planted from seed and produce ready for sale yesterday included potatoes, peas, green beans, red and white onions, lettuces, tomatoes and radishes.

Still growing are leeks, broccoli, beans and butternut squash and Mrs Beaumont said they would probably be planting seasonal things like pumpkins next term too.

"We started the garden as part of the eco-schools initiative which includes a committee with two children from each year on it but the garden club is open to the rest of the school."

NEWS

Shares bonus for sports store staff

STAFF AT AN Oswestry sports store are each set to receive a share bonus worth over £30,000 after their company smashed profit targets for the second year in a row.

Sports Direct, which has branches in Oswestry, Telford and Shrewsbury, revealed profits of more than £200 million, triggering another massive share payout to its 2,000-plus staff.

It is believed to be the largest windfall of its kind in the British retail sector and the Shropshire staff are set to receive shares worth over £30,000 each.

The chain, run by Newcastle United football club owner Mike Ashley, will pay out shares to its staff, which are worth an average of £30,960 each.

Combined with a payout for meeting the previous year's target, awards to Sports Direct staff now total £43,860 – more than twice the average salary of £20,000.

Toilet incident sparks appeal

POLICE have appealed for help to trace a man who reportedly watched beneath the cubicle as a teenage boy used a toilet.

The incident happened at the public toilets in English Walls at about 1.20pm yesterday, Wednesday, when the suspect is reported to have bent down and watched the victim for a few seconds from an adjoining cubicle.

Police Constable James Nicholson appealed for anyone who knows the identity of the man or saw someone matching his description at the time to contact 0300 333 3000.

"He appeared to be in his late 60s to 70s with white hair in a side parting, was clean-shaven and was wearing a light brown, knee-length coat or jacket," he said.

Office reopens

OSWESTRY BUILDING society office The West Brom has reopened with a new look on Church Street and anyone visiting could win £200 in a draw.

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NEWS

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New health village opens its doors to first patients

THE first facilities in Oswestry's new multi-million pound health village have opened.

GPs have spent the last two days moving their surgery from Cae Glas to part of the former Cambrian Railway in Gobowen Road.

Community Trust services will also start to work out of the building from August 1.

Work on the health village has been going on for more than a year. It has included the restoration of the historic, listed building to convert it into a minor injuries unit, X-ray unit, dentist and other services.

Surgery partner Dr Santi Eslava said the building was now fully open. He said: "They are beautiful facilities and it is a stunning building. It is a state-of-the-art new surgery."

Campaign

"I think it will be a great service to the town and to the 5,300 patients as well."

Town mayor Cynthia Hawksley said: "I think it is wonderful that it has now come to fruition. It has taken a while and I am glad it has opened and I wish them the very best of luck."

The health village was initially going to be built on a five acre site next door to the building. But after a long campaign by local people the land was registered as a town green.

Health bosses had to rethink their plans and site the health village in the nearby Cambrian Railway building.

Shropshire Councillor David Lloyd was leader of Oswestry Borough Council when work started. He said: "This is very pleasing and signals the importance of community care. We have worked closely with the GPs to make sure it meets the needs of the public. I am delighted to have a one stop shop for the problems of everyday life."

Charity cricket day

AN ENTERPRISING Oswestry youngster was the toast of his school after staging a charity cricket match.

Tomas Perkins, who is in Year 7 at Oswestry School, organised the competition for his form. The total raised was £62.40 and split between the Midlands Air Ambulance and the Charlotte Hartley Foundation.

Tomas, from Ellesmere, said: "I had a lot of help from the sports teachers and I am extremely grateful to them. It was a lovely day and I think everyone really enjoyed it."

Underpass is home to community art



ABOVE: Taking a look at part of the new mosaic are Lynda Davies, Marion James and Isobel Jones, from Four Crosses. BELOW: Ingrid Maughan, community artist from Meifod and designer of the mosaic, shows the mosaic to transport minister Carl Sargeant who officially opened the new bypass. Pictures: Simon Williams



ART LOVERS are being urged to go along and see a mosaic mural which features in a pedestrian underpass on the Powys/Shropshire border.

Artists and designers have completed work on the mural as part of the new A483 Four Crosses bypass.

Arts Connection, a community arts organisation in Llanfyllin, created the art piece.

The bypass, which opened last month, has been built to help improve road safety and journey times around the village.

Sian Walters, project officer for Arts Connection said: "Arts Connection, with funding from the Welsh Assembly Government, worked with the Four Cross community to develop this public art piece."

"Artist and designer Ingrid Maughan and Karen Geddes ran various open community workshops and worked with the school."

"The mural has been designed as a result of consultations with members of the community and is based upon the drawings of children from Llandysilio Primary School in Four Crosses."

"It features archive photos and pictures as representations of the area's history."

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Appeal by police on theft of gates

POLICE ARE appealing for information following the theft of 30 metal farm gates from business premises at St Martins, near Oswestry.

The gates were stolen from the yard of S and J Wright Ltd. on the Ifton Industrial Estate between 8pm and 9pm on Monday night.

Police believes a white Transit pick-up was used to remove gates worth £4,000 and may have made several trips to the site.

The thieves broke into the yard and stole the galvanised gates from a storage area. Ten 17-foot gates worth £1,000 and 20 12-foot gates were taken.

A West Mercia Police spokesperson said: "The offenders would have been on site for some time loading their vehicle and we believe returned to make a second trip."

"We are appealing to anyone who thinks they may have spotted anything connected to this crime, to contact Oswestry police station on 0300 333 3000."

"We would also like to hear from anyone offered galvanised steel farm gates for sale under dubious circumstances."

Warm welcome

WELSHPOOL ROTARY Club welcomed visitors to its last meeting with Clare McPherson from America and Michael Joby, chairman of NADFAS attending. Roger Eagles entertained.

MPs vow to carry on fight against cables

MPs HAVE VOWED to continue the battle to protect the Shropshire and Mid Wales countryside from plans which could see power lines built across the region.

The pledge came after a delegation of MPs and council bosses met National Grid boss Nick Winser at Westminster. He revealed that burying the cables would actually cost three times as much as using overground cables, not 10 times, as had been previously suggested.

The delegation, Shropshire MPs Owen Paterson, Philip Dunne and Daniel Kawczynski, with Montgomeryshire MP Glyn Davies, and with Shropshire Council's leader, Councillor Keith Barrow, and chief executive Kim Ryley, insisted any cables must go underground.

'Spirited talks'

The National Grid wants to build a 400,000 volt electricity line from either Abermule or Cefn Coch in Mid Wales along one of 10 suggested routes across the Shropshire countryside.

Mr Paterson said that during "spirited talks" about the line it was confirmed that burying cables would cost £562 million compared to £178 million putting them overground.

"We made clear the very strong and widespread hostility to this project," he said. "If the cables have to run through Shropshire, they simply must be placed underground to protect the countryside."

Mr Davies said: "National Grid made clear that the opinions of local councillors or of the National Assembly carried no relevance and no matter what the people of Mid Wales think, they intend to carry on. This is going to be a long war of attrition."

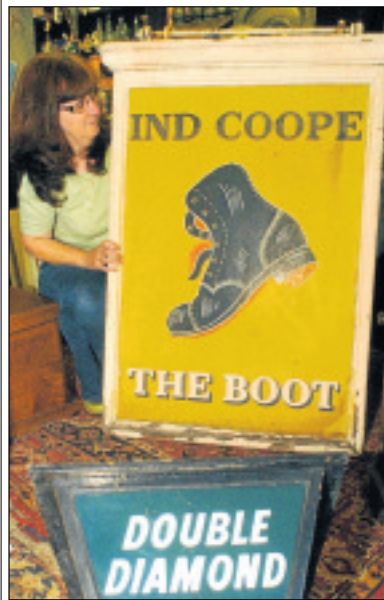
"Previously we had been given all sorts of costs but the reality is that the cost of undergrounding would be just three times the cost of a line of pylons."

National Grid also revealed its planned timescale. It will go through the 6,000 to 7,000 consultation responses before announcing its preferred route in 2012, then carry out an environmental survey, which will consider underground cables, before sending a recommendation to the Secretary of State in 2014. A decision is due in 2015.

Ludlow MP Philip Dunne said: "I was pleased to have the opportunity to make it clear to the National Grid the grave concerns of the people of Shropshire."

Councillor Barrow said: "It was a useful meeting that gave clarity and the timescales involved."

Signs point to town history



Heather Parkes with the signs for The Boot.

A PIECE of Welshpool history was unveiled when antique dealers answered the call to carry out a barn clearance.

Mel and Heather Parkes of Lamplite Antiques in Boot Street, Welshpool came across a piece of pub history by discovering the old signage to the Boot Inn - which was once just a few yards from their premises.

The Boot is believed to have closed on Broad Street in 1974 after a long history as one of Welshpool's favourite drinking houses. The premises is now the home of Norman Lloyd Estate Agents.

The sight of the pub sign outside the Welshpool dealers' shop has stopped many passers-by with a memory of time spent drinking in The Boot, which was probably at its peak when run by the Whitehouse family. Also unearthed was another illuminated glass sign which once hung over The Boot door carrying the "Double Diamond" logo.

"There's been a lot of interest in the signs," said Mel Parkes. "It's difficult to put a value on but they will be of significance to someone, whether a relative of a former licensee or someone with an interest in the pub trade."

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Parking in spotlight at council meeting

CAR PARKING in the Welshpool area will come under the spotlight this week as councillors meet to address traffic and safety concerns raised by residents.

Powys County Council will be discussing the matter at a meeting of full council today (Thursday).

It comes months after the council took over responsibility for parking enforcement from the police.

A motion, due to be put forward by Councillor Gareth Ratcliffe at the meeting, states: "From September this council will start to work on the feasibility of a residents' parking policy with the assistance of the scrutiny committee."

"Also a review of parking restrictions, traffic management and off-street parking with consultation with key stakeholders such as town and community councils and chambers of trade."

It will come days after the county council announced it would be launching a review into parking.

Councillor Geraint Hopkins, cabinet member for environment and regulation, said: "We had intended to carry out a thorough review later in the year but because of public concerns, we have brought it forward."

New agent

ANOTHER ESTATE agent is to open in the centre of Oswestry. Welshpool based agents Richmond Harvey will open at the junction of Leg Street and Cross Street on September 2.



Ready for action at the Country & Western festival is Wayne O'Donnell.

Pictures: Simon Williams

Yeehaw... cowboys mosey on down for the festival fun

by Graham Breeze

WHEN COWBOYS ride into town not even the weather can stop them having a good time at Welshpool.

Hundreds donned their finest cowboy gear for the town's annual Country and Western Festival last weekend and not even squally showers could dampen their enthusiasm.

Music fans flocked to Powis Castle for the festival, which this year took place over three days for the first time, from Friday to Sunday. Organisers said that the event was a great success despite the weather.

The fun kicked off on Friday night with a talent show, the first time the field had seen Friday night entertainment. Saturday saw a morning disco, followed by acts, including Cajun Moon and the Weston Line.

Sunday saw a range of acts and the talent show winners from Friday night also took to the stage, before a finale from The Trilogy, who performed to close the event.

All proceeds from the event, which has been held for the past 23 years, will go to the Heulwen Trust. The trust provides narrowboat trips on the Montgomery Canal at Welshpool for disabled people and those suffering serious illness.

David Corfield, the trust's chairman, said that the charity relied on the festival each year to provide the major part of its funds because they were unable to get grants.

"We usually raise between £4,000 and £5,000 from the festival," Mr Corfield added.

He said that this year's figure was still not confirmed but said that he had been pleased with the attendance at the event despite the weather. There had been 40 trade stands with seven of them being new to the festival.



Ready for a showdown - cowboys at the festival.



Sue Hancock is holding her granddaughter, Cayce Hancock, three, as she covers her ears at the sound of gunshots.



Steve Huggins and father Derek (Diablo) Huggins.



Cowboy John Bainbridge.



Dressed the part are Peter Hill and grandson Jake Hill.

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Schools planning budget deficits

THREE SCHOOLS in the Welshpool area are among 26 planning budget deficits totalling more than £2 million in this financial year.

Twenty-one primary and five secondary schools are planning deficits, Powys County Council's Cabinet will be told later this month.

However, the remaining 80 primary, three special and eight secondary schools are planning for budget surpluses of nearly £3m by March 2012.

Under Welsh Government funding regulations the county council is required to licence schools planning a deficit budget. The council can also claw back monies when schools hold substantial surpluses.

Cabinet Member for Learning and Leisure, Councillor Stephen Hayes said: "The current deficit position shows the serious challenges facing many of our schools with falling school numbers creating significant financial pressures. Our officers will continue to work closely with the headteachers and governing bodies of schools."

The schools with licensed budgets include Churchstoke and Leighton primaries and Welshpool High.

Garden trip

MEMBERS OF Welshpool Horticultural Society are making a garden visit to Glynderyn at Newtown tonight, Thursday, at 7pm and the summer show will take place at Welshpool Town Hall on August 18.

Outrage at 'little annexe' plans for primary pupils

by Graham Breeze

SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL has reneged on its pledge to give primary school children in St Martins facilities at least as good they have now in the proposed, all-through school, governors have said.

Architect's drawing for the school for three to 19 year olds show the primary children housed in what governors called "a little annexe around the back", in small classrooms that they have now at Ifton Heath School.

Governors, staff and parents are protesting against the proposals that would see Ifton Heath closed and the new school created on the Rhyn Park secondary school site.

Future

Councillors met at Shirehall yesterday to debate the closure of Ifton Heath and four other primary schools.

Governors have gone through the report on the future of education in St Martins and questioned 29 points in the report, including a pledge by Shropshire's director of education, David Taylor, made at a public meeting in St Martins, that any new setting for the school would need to be at least as good as current facilities.

Headteacher Nicola Bradley, said: "We have been offered less and less with far smaller accommodation, much less outdoor space and a reduced number of rooms."

"We currently have spacious grounds with a forest school area, superb playing fields an outdoor barked area and an outdoor drama stage. We would have nothing like this if the proposals went ahead in fact the drawings seem to totally disregard the foundation children."

Chairman of governors, Julian Cattley, said: "What is suggested is totally unremarkable and the only new build would be for secondary school pupils."

"There is no 'wow' factor in what they want us to do. It looks like the primary school children will be housed in a little annexe at the back."



Headteacher Nicola Bradley, middle, from Ifton Heath Primary School, with staff and pupils, Jasmine Carr, Robert Williams-Keeling, Ryan Whitely and Courtney Price.

Evidence is submitted to council

PARENTS AND staff from a village school on the Shropshire/Powys border have drawn up a battle plan to safeguard the school's future.

A portfolio of evidence has been sent to officials at Powys County Council from Llangedwyn Primary School which is threatened by closure.

The school was named alongside 10 other primaries in Powys by the county council to be included in informal consultations to see if they are viable.

But parents, residents, staff and

governors have grouped together to reform a Friends group in a bid to fight against any possible future closure.

They have also created a portfolio of documents showing how the school is important to the community.

Sarah Chandler, who recently took up the post of headteacher at Llangedwyn Primary School, said: "We have put forward our folder of evidence to Powys County Council."

"It shows what we do in the community, things that support the school and

the things we use the school for. The folder is to let the authority know about school life."

The evidence will be put to a panel in August.

She said parents and supporters of the school will now have to wait and see what decisions the council officials make.

"We are now in a holding pattern," she said.

"We have been in that pattern since Christmas."

NEWS

in brief

Soil claim focus of investigation

ALLEGATIONS THAT contaminated soil taken from the former Welshpool Smithfield has found its way to a Shropshire sump are being investigated.

The Environment Agency has confirmed that its Midlands office is carrying out an investigation into a report that "materials", believed to be soil, were found at a Shropshire site and have allegedly been tracked back to the multi-million pound Welshpool Tesco development site.

A spokesperson said: "We are currently investigating this matter and will be unable to give any further details at this time."

The Tesco supermarket opened in February on the site of the former Smithfield which had been home to one of Europe's largest livestock markets for decades. The market is now held at Welshpool Livestock Sales on the edge of town.

Aqueduct plunge man recovering

A MAN WHO miraculously survived after plunging 70ft from Chirk Aqueduct on Saturday is recovering from his injuries.

The man, who has been named as Marc Gray-Coles and is believed to be in his 20s, was airlifted to hospital in Liverpool by an RAF search and rescue helicopter.

North Wales Police are investigating the incident.

Two crews from West Midlands Ambulance Service were called to the scene at 6.20am on Saturday where they said the casualty had suffered pelvic and back injuries.

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Funding news is good news

NEWSPAPERS are often accused of publishing too much bad news but here at the *Chronicle* we are always pleased when there's a good news week – and this is one.

It doesn't come much better with the announcement that Oswestry is to get a £650,000 boost from Shropshire Council's Market Towns Revitalisation Programme.

Organisations presented their cases to the council on Tuesday night for a share of the handout and announced combined investment plans of £775,000.

It's fingers crossed for everyone concerned now as the council considers applications from diverse organisations from Rugby Club improvements to a mono rail project.

Whatever the outcome this is fantastic news for Oswestry and is just another example of how many people in the town are committed to putting the building bricks in place to ensure a vibrant future.

What a difference £650,000 will make.

IT HAS BEEN the most remarkable week that I can ever remember in the newspaper industry.

Revelations have been coming thick and fast over the phone hacking issues, resignations at the highest level and high drama for the Murdochs in front of the House of Commons culture, media and sport committee.

While it was only to be expected that Rebekah Brooks would lose her job at the head of News International, who could have expected the two men at the Metropolitan Police to walk away?

The Murdochs didn't really get the grilling they deserved from the MPs and Ms Brooks produced a charm offensive to demonstrate why she has reached the top of her profession.

Vibrations from the fallout are now going right to the top

BREEZE ABOUT TOWN

with Graham Breeze



and as I write this column Prime Minister David Cameron is preparing to face his toughest day in office as he answers MPs' questions about his lack of wisdom in employing former *News Of The World* Editor Andy Coulson.

The important thing to remember is that what's happening on the international stage is not reflective of what happens at grass roots. Unless making the odd cup of tea for our local bobby means we could soon be appearing before a committee of MPs, that is.

I'VE BEEN rattling on for weeks about the delays caused by workmen on the new Four Crosses bypass and was surprised to read that the scheme would finish on time.

But I still have some serious concerns. While the road is now open and traffic flowing freely, the positioning of a bus stop leaves me wondering what brains were behind this scheme.

Despite the fact that there is no shortage of space to build a pull-in for coaches the planners have chosen to paint yellow lines on a fast stretch of the two-lane bypass and call it a bus stop. This means buses will pull up to a stop on the main carriageway.

If that's not an accident waiting to happen, I will eat my hat!

Val's tireless work is an inspiration to all



Val Hanover sorts through some of the latest North Shropshire Special Olympics paperwork.

PROFILE

with Carl Jones

So what exactly does it take to win a Pride of Shropshire award? Tireless community campaigning? Certainly.

Working for the benefit of others, without seeking financial reward? Definitely.

Adding to the fabric of Shropshire life and enriching the lives of others who are less fortunate than yourself? Absolutely.

So it's little wonder that Val Hanover, of Combs-la-Ville Close in Oswestry, lifted one of the top prizes at the annual awards ceremony earlier this month. Because she ticks all the boxes.

Driving force

Val is a driving force in the North Shropshire Special Olympics, formed to help some of the less able members of society enjoy the benefits which sport and exercise can bring.

But her track record in working with people with learning disabilities stretches back even further, to the mid 1960s.

She explains: "North Shropshire Special Olympics has been running a sports programme since 1989. "The group started with 16 people doing athletics, and now has 89 members who all train at least once a week in a variety of sports, under the supervision of qualified coaches and volunteers."

It offers athletics, swimming, table tennis, boccia (a form of hockey), basketball and tenpin bowling for either one or two hours a week, and all run as independent sports.

Val adds: "Our athletes have a learning disability and IQ under 75.

"Many of our athletes are autistic, which can be very challenging, but we have found that the discipline of sport can help not only with their concentration, but with their behaviour, social-



Maryann Denfhy, from Muller, presents the Shropshire Healthy Life award to Val Hanover at the Pride of Shropshire Awards.

sation and becoming part of a team." The benefits are clear to see.

Eight players represented England in the four nations Disability Badminton competition and did the club proud. One played the sport for Great Britain in the Special Olympic European Games in Poland last September, and came home with a gold and silver medal.

Another table tennis player represented their country in the Special Olympic World Games last month.

With Val, it's always about the participants, never about the work she puts in behind the scenes to help make the group such a terrific success and keep on top of the mountain of paperwork.

She said: "We are an extremely active group, and cater for people with a learning disability of all abilities, from a young lady who has no control of her limbs and plays boccia, to the more active autistic child or adult."

Most weekends, someone from the Oswestry group is out and about, competing in a regional or national competition.

Val says: "The sporting activities help people with a disability to live a healthy lifestyle and be more active, which in turn helps with weight and fitness."

"Many parents benefit from the activities, knowing that their offspring are well looked after in a safe environment, and benefit greatly by the respite they get when we go away to compete

for a day, weekend, or a week – for many, this is the only break they get."

"A number of our older athletes still live at home with parents, one of whom is in her 90s.

"People continually congratulate us for the work we do in offering sport to this vulnerable group of people. The group have a marvellous team of coaches and volunteers who work extremely hard to keep the group alive."

Quality of life

Val received recognition from her peers at the fourth annual Pride of Shropshire awards presentation, when she won the Healthy Life trophy, awarded to someone who improves people's health, or quality of life, in the county.

It's not the first time Val has been in the spotlight. She was honoured at the prestigious BBC Sports Personality of the Year awards back in 2006 when she won the Unsung Hero award, collecting the trophy in London from England footballing goalscorer legends Alan Shearer and Michael Owen.

Shropshire Council leader, Councillor Keith Barrow, said Val was a typical example of those who are least likely to seek out the limelight, but without whom the quality of life in the county would be that much lower.

"We are fortunate in Shropshire that we have strong and vibrant communities, with some exceptional individuals living in them."

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LETTERS & NEWS

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Pin-ups sought for health project

SOMEONE FROM the Oswestry area could become the public face of a new county-wide health awareness campaign – but there is a catch.

Anyone willing to be a champion would have to pose "Calendar Girls" style for the campaign.

Shropshire County Primary Care Trust (PCT) is launching a search to find people to front the initiative called 'NHS Health Check'.

The campaign aimed at everyone in Shropshire between 40 and 74 is designed to create awareness about the risks of heart and kidney disease, type 2 diabetes and strokes.

Publicity messages will show how the NHS Health Check can help detect early signs of the conditions and suggest lifestyle changes to help combat them.

Rather than use professional models, Shropshire County PCT is looking to recruit local people.

Mums, dads, aunts, uncles or grandparents can all potentially become advertising icons on billboards, bus sides and giant posters across the county.

The search is being conducted in a novel way. Primarily using social networking site Facebook as well as a short introduction video Shropshire people are being invited to nominate themselves, or friends and family to become a local NHS Health Check Champion.

More details can be found at www.facebook.com/free-healthcheck.

Professor Rod Thomson, Shropshire County's director of public health, said: "We are looking to recruit people who will be the local face of this innovative and exciting campaign."

TNS donates football kits

KENYAN SCHOOLS are all kitted out for football after The New Saints FC handed over bags of kit.

The club donated the kit to Bill and Lyn Edwards of Ellesmere, organisers of the Kenyan Schools Project, who will fly the equipment out to Africa in October.

To contribute can contact the couple on 01691 623229.

Romans arrive at primary school

PUPILS AT The Meadows Primary School in Oswestry dressed in Roman clothing to host an open morning.

The youngsters, from Year 6, created a Roman-style presentation in the school hall following a school trip to see Hadrian's Wall.

The children re-created Roman clothing, weapons, models of buildings and pottery artefacts and acted as guides, escorting parents and visitors around each display and shared their knowledge of life in Roman times.

Headteacher, Karen Morris, said: "It was lovely to see so many parents and grandparents enjoying all the pupils' work throughout the school".

The open morning was followed by a whole school family picnic on the school field.



Engaging in battle are 11-year-olds, left to right, Amelia Pierce, Naomi Chapman and James Holt. Picture: Simon Williams



The story with the photo says: "Quinta School at Weston Rhyn, near Oswestry, is to close next year. And the school's headmaster has warned the closure could spell disaster for some boys who may end up in borstal or prison. Hopes for a reprieve for the 40-year-old school were dashed when the Dr Barnardo's council, which runs it, agreed to a recommendation to withdraw the school from the pooling system for pupils in the West Midlands." The picture is dates April 16, 1980.

Appeal on Christmas parking

I WOULD like to confirm to readers the Oswestry Chamber of Commerce's view with regards to free parking at Christmas following a report in last week's Chronicle.

David Preston, clerk to Oswestry Town Council, has asked the chamber about the desirability of some free parking in the weeks running up to Christmas and we are in the process of talking to our members to gather views.

We are unclear about how beneficial this has been in the past and members, and indeed others with an interest, are invited to let the chamber know if they think it is a good idea or not, and if it is, which days would be most beneficial.

You can let us know via the website www.oswestrychamber.org.uk or at our meeting at 6pm on August 3 at the Wynnstay Hotel.

MARTIN ANDERSON, Chairman, Oswestry Chamber of Commerce

LETTERS to the Editor

POST Readers' Letters, Oswestry Chronicle, Ketley, Telford TF1 5HU

FAX 01952 222451

E-MAIL letters@oswestrychronicle.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters

Tired of the hacking tale

How many people switch over when they hear the word hacking?

Is this the most boring news of the world? OK the ancient hackers were wrong and have been found out much later.

There was lawlessness before town sheriffs, that's why there are sheriffs.

The hackers were using unpoliced technology and have pushed us into awareness.

Hackers should be thanked for moving things along, not relentlessly chased down a bored hole.

Let's have some new news, please.

N HARTLAND Gobowen

Let us use lake water

IN VIEW of the disruption that United Utilities are due to cause to residents of Oswestry when they carry out work on the main water pipes, I have an idea.

How about asking United Utilities to give us some of their nice Lake Vyrnwy water to defray the inconvenience they will be causing?

After all, they will not be able to pump the usual volumes of water for the period of the works, so why not let Oswestry have it?

RICHARD LAYCOCK Oswestry

Devil must be laughing at mayhem

In order to pass the driving test everyone has first to study The Highway Code which gives you instruction such as driving on the left and giving way to traffic on the right at roundabouts.

Anyone who ignores these rules of the road comes to grief and causes misery all round.

There's a right and wrong way to drive and the same applies to life generally, yet many folk make up their own rules and end up causing much misery.

One basic rule of life is that we must be faithful to our partner in marriage, the chances when one flouts this rule result in shattering injuries far worse than physical ones. We were taught you must not steal, now that seems to have changed too. Everything has to be under lock and key and a huge security industry has sprung up.

The Devil must be really happy with the mayhem now that we have abandoned the Ten Commandments.

RON JONES St Martins

Pull over plea for tractors' drivers

TRACTOR DRIVERS on Welshpool area roads are being urged to avoid queue rage by pulling over to let traffic pass this summer.

The call, from the Farmers' Union Of Wales, is a move to avoid queues forming behind agricultural vehicles on the roads during harvest time.

"Getting stuck behind a slow moving vehicle on a twisting country lane with no opportunity to overtake is very frustrating," said Richard Vaughan, chairman of the FUW's land use committee.

"It is especially annoying on hot summer days for local people who are anxious to keep appointments, and for tourists whose enjoyment of their holidays can be spoiled."

"The thoughtlessness of some drivers who forget to pull over when they are being followed by a long line of traffic is a recipe for road rage," said Mr Vaughan.

"It can often lead to drivers taking unnecessary risks and overtaking at the most inappropriate times and places, creating a danger to themselves and to other road users."

Although tractors are often blamed for hold-ups, slow-moving lorries and cars towing caravans could also be at fault.

"The Highway Code states that anyone causing traffic to back up as a result of their slow speed must pull over at the earliest and safest opportunity to allow faster vehicles to pass," he said.

Chip shop open soon

A FISH AND chip shop damaged in a fire should be up and running again next month in Whittington, the owner has said.

Balwinder Singh Chatha, owner of Whittington Fish Bar, said it was hoped the shop would open "sometime in August" and added work was on-going at the site.

The shop was damaged by a fire on June 3 – the day it was due to reopen after a refit last month.

More than 30 firefighters fought the fire, which was caused by a chip pan catching light.

Fun day is held

OLDFORD Tenants' Association will be holding its annual fun day at the Seacais area in Welshpool on Saturday between 11am and 4pm.

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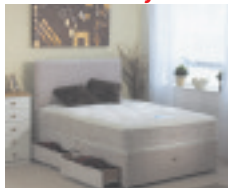
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NEWS

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Farmhouse B&B given a national top 50 spot

by Graham Breeze

A FARMHOUSE near Welshpool has been named as one of the top 50 B&Bs in the United Kingdom

Gwaenynog B&B in Dolanog, run by Norman and Fiona Potts, has been named in the top 50 by *The Independent*.

"If you're looking for a peaceful country break with a plethora of wildlife, Gwaenynog is the ideal spot," said Karen Thorne, one of *The Independent's* panelists.

"Set in 16 acres with fabulous views over the Welsh countryside, though it only opened recently it's already attracting repeat guests," she added.

Dream

Norman and Fiona spent 18 months clocking up thousands of miles hunting for their dream farmhouse in Mid Wales, before dropping on Gwaenynog quite by chance in the summer of 2009.

They had made an appointment to view a neighbouring farmhouse but fate led them to Gwaenynog, which was up for sale with the same estate agent. The owner invited them in and the Hampshire-based couple immediately fell in love with it.

When Fiona, 49, was made redundant after 20 years of working as a facilities manager in Paddington, London, it finally gave her and her husband the push they needed to set up their own B&B in Wales.

"It was something we had talked about doing in the future, but because

I was made redundant we decided maybe we should think about doing it sooner," she said.

Collywobble

The couple had three ensuite bathrooms installed and had to fork out extra cash to fix drainage issues,

replace four windows and redo the drive, but after six months, Gwaenynog Farmhouse was open for business.

"We've had the odd collywobble but nothing that would make us change our minds," said Fiona, who is a member of Mid Wales Tourism.



Norman and Fiona Potts with their dogs celebrate the top 50 B&B accolade.



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Foursome put fun back in their area

by Graham Breeze

FOUR FORDEN youngsters are resurrecting the village fun day and are out to improve the image of teenagers in the area on Saturday.

The three 15 year olds and a 14 year old have teamed up to put on a community event this weekend, which they herald as being "run by young people, for young people" and they are encouraging the wider community of the Welshpool area to support them.

Tom Francis, one of the organising quartet, said: "There isn't a lot to do in Forden, so we have decided to resurrect the fun day and we're hoping it will become an annual event with the support of the community once again."

"We thought it would be good to put something back into the community. This is because, stereotypically, teenagers in the area are sometimes given a bad name."

Activities

Tom, 15, is joined by Will Gittins, 15, Chris Windsor, 15, and Connor Phillips, 14, who are all students at Welshpool High School.

The boys have created a day of activities for the village to remember and for the whole family to enjoy. There will also be live music performed by two Welshpool High School students, 'Huw and Will', who have released a single on iTunes.

"The Fun Day used to be an event we'd all look forward to. Many children and adults enjoyed it and I have fond memories as a former student at Forden Church in Wales Primary School," said Tom.

"This event is run by young people, for young people, and is putting the fun back into Forden. The local community has come out in support too by supplying raffle prizes and support. The day gets under way at 2.30pm and the entry fee of £3 for adults and £1.50 for children will include a free burger and a drink. All proceeds will go to Forden School."

Appeal over sacking

A WELSHPOOL head teacher who was recommended for dismissal following an investigation at Ardwyn School will appeal the decision.

Erios Hall was dismissed last week following a 15-month probe into allegations, which have not been disclosed.

However, she will remain in her position on suspension after the National Association of Head Teachers confirmed an appeal would be lodged by them on her behalf.

Parents collecting pupils from school at the end of term were handed letters telling them of Mrs Hall's dismissal, and advising them not to speak to the press.



Forden's 'fab four': From left, Tom Francis, Connor Phillips, Chris Windsor and Will Gittins.

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Offer puts locals on right lines

by Graham Breeze

THE PEOPLE of Welshpool have proved they know a bargain when they see one with over 500 taking advantage of cheap travel on the Welshpool & Llanfair Light Railway.

Staff and volunteers at the railway are delighted at the success of the promotion encouraging local residents to enjoy a ride on the line.

Staged as part of Welshpool's "Be a Local Tourist" week between July 2-10, the scheme saw local people offered return trips on the eight-mile long narrow gauge line for just £3, compared to the normal adult return fare of £11.90.

Positive

Railway staff came up with the idea after many local people admitted that despite the railway being a very familiar part of the local environment they had not travelled on it for many years, some never at all.

With more than 500 residents taking up the offer, the team running the railway was delighted with the busy trains and also with the many positive comments received from the locals.

One lady told railway staff she was travelling on the railway for the first time since 1923. "She seemed to have a good time," said John Jacobs, a local and regular volunteer.

W&LLR general manager Terry Turner said that residents appeared to have been impressed by the railway's initiative.

"We consider ourselves an important part of the local community but we also consider the local community very important to us," he said.

"To see so many local residents taking the time to come and see what is happening on the railway, was very pleasing," Terry added.

Pop to shops halts traffic

LUNCHTIME traffic was brought to a standstill in Welshpool on Saturday after a man left his dinner cooking while he popped to the shops for a missing ingredient.

Traffic in the town centre was brought to a halt and police were forced to set up diversions as firefighters carried out a full investigation at the premises in Berriew Street which turned to be no more than an overheating saucepan.

Headteacher says farewell



Headteacher Gill Hopkins with Georgina Seager, Sophie Wadley, Finlay Neville, Robbie Hughes, Jordan Whitehouse, Alice Seager and Tia Owen.

TREFNANNEY Primary School's headteacher has retired after working at the school for 25 years. Gill Hopkins stood down from her role last week.

She said she was looking forward to spending more time with her two grandchildren.

Mrs Hopkins, 59, from Welshpool, said: "I have been headteacher at the school for more than 25 years and have really enjoyed working at such an amazing school.

"One of the greatest things for me during my time at the school was seeing the children reach their full potential. That was the most rewarding part for me."

Martin Pearce, chairman of governors, said Mrs Hopkins would be sorely missed.

He said Sue Thomas would take over as acting headteacher from September.

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Schools' modernisation plans are put 'on hold'

Anyone for a cake?

by Graham Breeze

PROPOSALS TO modernise schools in the Welshpool area are on hold after Powys County Council was told to re-think its plans.

In a bid to reduce capital funding the Welsh Assembly Government has told all county councils to review 21st Century Schools bids.

And the news has been greeted with disappointment by Powys County Council.

Cabinet member for learning and leisure, councillor Stephen Hayes said: "The minister's announcement is extremely disappointing and will have a significant impact on the county council's ability to back its school modernisation initiatives with new buildings.

"Not only does it reduce the Welsh Government's contribution to future schemes, but it pushes the availability of funding further into the future.

Challenges

"Further area reviews are likely to be affected and I recently announced a deferment of the Welshpool area review, which had been due to start in the autumn.

"With regard to secondary and post-16 modernisation, the challenges of surplus places, ensuring our youngsters have appropriate curriculum choice and fostering educational excellence across the county remain," he said.

"There is no question of modernisation not going forward in Powys, and I will be announcing the next stages of our work later this year. However, the announcement is a serious blow to our aspiration to back modernisation with new and refurbished buildings, and extremely disappointing considering all the hard work that went into the original 21st Century Schools submission.

"But it does not mean an end to the work to modernise our schools, that work is still needed and vital if we are to deliver the quality of education our young learners deserve."

Tom's work on show

LLANFAIR Caereinion High School has a new lectern in its main hall, thanks to the skills of one of the pupils.

Tom Humphreys created the reading desk using his woodworking skills.

He decided to make the lectern in his design and technology lessons, and presented it as a gift to the school at the end of term.

He constructed the lectern using cherry wood to build the frame and then added custom-made mouldings. He dedicated up to 100 hours to the project.



Violet Silk selling homemade cakes at a fundraising coffee morning in aid of the Welshpool and District Stroke Club at the Church House in Welshpool.

Picture: Simon Williams

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Opening This Week

New Gift Shop and Pottery Studio

Saturday July 23rd



New ideas for holiday fun for the family, keeping the kids entertained during the summer can be a challenge, but now help is at hand in the county with a new gift shop opening in Oswestry offering pottery painting.

Twin sisters Sarah Meade of Oswestry and Catherine Cole of West Felton already run the successful Honey Pots gift and ceramic studio in Llangollen and are now opening a twin shop in Oswestry, which will offer hands-on pottery painting days for all the family.

The new shop in Church Street will open 10am, Saturday July 23, selling the extremely successful and very

collectable Charlie Bears range, as well as Pilgrim Jewellery, the popular Pip Studio and Gorjuss gift ranges, gift cards and candles and Sarah and Catherine's own hand painted pottery.

"Demand for hand painted plates for everything from wedding presents to christening presents has been outstripping supply, as each plate is individually hand painted by us," said Sarah.

The Pottery Studio will open at Oswestry from Monday, July 25 and Sarah and Catherine will be pleased to share tips and tricks to make the pottery painting experience as rewarding as possible.

"We provide all of the paints, brushes and equipment along with a selection of ready to paint pre-fired ceramic pieces from simple plates and dishes to cups and cake stands," said Sarah.

"We then glaze and fire the items after they have been painted so they are ready for collection the following week."

"Parents want to spend quality time with their children and many find that this is a relaxing and enjoyable activity, the whole family can work together whatever their ages," Sarah said.

Honey Pots in 24 Church Street, Oswestry
OPENS 10am SATURDAY, JULY 23 AND WILL BE OPEN FROM MONDAY TO SATURDAY 9.30am to 5.30pm.

Pottery painting is available from July 25 prior arrangement by contacting Honey Pots on **01978 869008** or visit **www.honey-pots.com**

Drivers warned of road changes

DRIVERS IN Oswestry are being warned to take care after changes were made to a town centre road junction.

Barriers that have steered motorists along the right lanes when travelling in and out of the town at the Gobowen Road junction have been dismantled to allow access to the health centre at the former Cambrian Railway Works.

Councillor Martin Bennett said drivers should make sure they were in the appropriate lane when using the new Beatrice Street/Gobowen Road junction.

He said: "When it was first built there were reports that confused motorists were using both the left hand lane, which is designated for the medical centre, and the right hand lane which supports traffic into the supermarket, bus station and Oswald Road leading into the town centre.

"As a result barriers were erected to direct traffic into the right hand lane, but with the opening of the medical centre imminent, the barriers have come down.

"Now I fear there could be accidents as drivers intending to travel along Oswald Road and using the left hand lane meet other drivers filtering left into the same road."

Launch day

CIVIC LEADERS in Welshpool will officially launch the town's 2012 calendar on August 5. The event will take place at the town's tourist information centre at 9.30am.

Rain fails to dampen spirits on carnival day

by Graham Breeze

HUNDREDS turned out to line the streets of West Felton on Sunday, refusing to let the rain spoil the annual carnival day celebrations.

Despite the rain they were there to watch the floats wind their way towards the playing fields for the 20th anniversary carnival and there was a celebratory atmosphere to the event.

Although the weather was not as bad as forecast, the afternoon saw heavy drizzle dampen the proceedings. But villagers and those from further afield still turned out in force to enjoy a full programme of entertainment.

The grand procession led by a horse and dray carrying the Carnival Queen and King was followed by decorated floats and vintage cars touring through the village from the Punch Bowl pub at 1.30pm.

Reptile show

This year's entertainment includes the Batala Barma drummers – a girl troupe from Barmouth with gigantic drums and a zumba display.

Naturalist Simon Airey was at the carnival with his renowned reptile show and there was music from a ukelele band the Porthywen Band, and the Boreatton scout drummers.

There was also a display by a local cheerleading team, a fun fair, mini train ride, caricaturist and coracle maker for people to watch.

Families could enjoy a whole array of side stalls including a tombola, bric-a-brac stand, art and craft stalls, kids craft table, face painting, henna and nails, a circus skills workshop, tea cakes and ice cream courtesy of West Felton Women's Institute, and a barbecue.

One of those at the carnival was the chairman of the parish council, Councillor David Curtis. He joined in the fun riding on one of the floats.

"There was rain which made it uncomfortably wet during the procession but it wasn't as bad as was forecast," he said. "It certainly didn't stop people turning out in force to watch the procession and enjoy the afternoon's entertainment."

Councillor Curtis said thanks must go to members of the carnival committee who worked all year and also the army of volunteers who ensured the day was a success.

"They were out on the field early in the morning and stayed until late tidying up afterwards. They really are remarkable," he said.



Bethan Jones, two, having fun as a pirate.



Umbrellas out, but the fun still carries on.



The West Felton carnival parade makes its way through the village.



Robin Sturgess, eight, dressed as a character from Mary Poppins.



Dressed up as music through the ages for the West Felton C of E primary school float are Sam Bray, Sarah Walker, Kai Bray, eight, and Emily Walker, nine.



Emily Fearn, three, dressed as a pirate.



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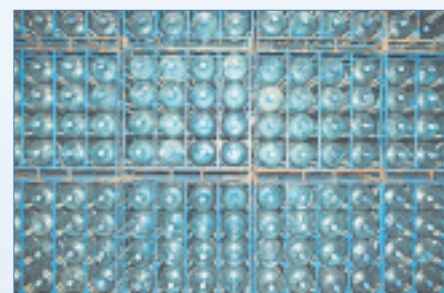
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Murderer killed two others

by Sam Pinnington

A SHROPSHIRE murderer serving life for bludgeoning a pensioner to death in 1994 committed two other brutal killings in the same year, a jury has ruled.

Robin Stanislaw Ligus, 59, formerly of Shrewsbury, who will now be detained indefinitely in a secure mental hospital, watched via videolink as a Birmingham Crown Court jury found him responsible last Friday for the murders of Trevor Bradley and Brian Coles.

A month-long trial heard that Ligus killed Mr Bradley by knocking him out and setting his car on fire in Melverley, near Oswestry, and beat Mr Coles to death with an iron bar at his home near Whitchurch.

River

But Ligus, who will be sentenced on July 29, was acquitted of involvement in the death of Bernard Czyzewska, whose body was found in the River Severn in Shrewsbury in November 1994.

Because of Ligus's mental state, jurors were instructed to rule on whether the father-of-three did the acts alleged against him, rather than being required to return verdicts of guilty or not guilty.

Detective Inspector Andy Parsons, who led the inquiry, said: "This case has shown that the impact upon the families of murder victims and the community does not diminish with the passage of time."

Referring to "wholesale confessions" made by Ligus to cell-mates, police and a psychologist, he added: "Today's result has proved that Robin Ligus was in fact a serial killer and not a serial confessor. His victims were vulnerable and were brutally killed in horrific circumstances."

The detective added: "It is unlikely Ligus will ever again be at liberty to become a threat to the communities of Shropshire."

Former painter and decorator Ligus was jailed for life in 1996 for killing 75-year-old Robert Young in Shrewsbury



Robert Ligus committed two other killings

in October 1994. Ligus was charged with the murders of Mr Bradley, Mr Coles and Mr Czyzewska in September last year after a cold case review.

Compelling

The police investigation strung out for 17 years was hampered by ineffectual findings, conflicting medical reports and insufficient evidence.

But it was Ligus's own confessions which proved the most compelling evidence in the trial and eventually led to a jury delivering a verdict of "case proved" in relation to Mr Bradley and Mr Coles.

His murder admissions, first made to prison mates in 1997 and then to a psy-

chologist and police in 2000, provided a bedrock for the investigation.

Ligus also admitted having committed a fourth murder in which he drowned a man in the River Severn but police had "insufficient grounds" to press charges.

The court heard that the 59-year-old was a drug addict in the early 1990s and carried out burglaries across the county to fund his heroin and cocaine habit.

Following a stroke in 2003 his health rapidly deteriorated and he was unable to give evidence or even plead in the recent trial.

Mr Bradley's death remained a mystery to detectives for almost two



TREVOR BRADLEY
Died April 26, 1994

Trevor Bradley was a well-known antiques dealer in Ludlow who often travelled around the county and Mid Wales to see his family. His brother Alf Bradley is married to a sister of Ligus's.

The 53-year-old, of Sidney Road, Ludlow, had a cup of tea at his brother Alfred's the day before his death and was last seen alive outside toilets in Leominster. It is not known where Mr Bradley spent his final hours before his burnt-out Vauxhall Nova car was found in Melverley. His body was exhumed in 2009 as part of a cold case review.

Case proven



BRIAN COLES
Died October 14, 1994

Brian Coles, who was described by his neighbours as a "recluse" and a "loner", was found dead in his living room in Heathwood Road, Higher Heath, near Whitchurch.

The 57-year-old bachelor reportedly "fell to pieces" after the death of his mother and suffered mental health problems in the 10 years before his death.

His nearly naked body was found after police broke into his bungalow when neighbours raised concerns. But a murder inquiry was closed after an inquest ruled he probably suffered severe skull fractures and cuts and bruises during a fall.

Case proven



BERNARD KIM
CZYZEWSKA
Died November 19, 1994

Doorman Bernard Czyzewska, 36, was last seen leaving the Elephant and Castle pub, Shrewsbury. Police said he had been depressed and they feared he might have taken his own life. His body was recovered from the River Severn on November 30 after being spotted by a fisherman.

An inquest recorded a verdict of misadventure after hearing he probably fell in the river. Mr Czyzewska, of Lancaster Road, Harlescote, Shrewsbury, was considered to be a man who could "handle himself".

Case not proven



Killed - Robert Young

Families speak out after case

THE families of two Shropshire men brutally murdered by serial killer Robin Ligus have spoken of their "pain and anger" during their 17-year battle for justice.

Ligus was found responsible of murdering Trevor Bradley and Brian Coles in 1994, but cleared of murdering Bernard Czyzewska.

The families of the three men have now spoken out about the findings of the six-week trial, with some demanding an apology from police.

Detective Inspector Andy Parsons, of West Mercia Police who led the investigation, said the case had been "long and complex".

He said: "We respect the jury's findings and hope the outcome goes some way to helping the families of Trevor Bradley and Brian Coles come to terms with their loss."

But Peter Coles, cousin of Brian Coles, said: "The tragic death of our cousin Brian Coles has been a source of pain, doubt, and anger."

Apology

"The constables who found Brian's body thought the circumstances so suspicious they called in a detective, who like others jumped to unfounded conclusions and did not follow proper procedures."

"We the family expect an apology from those who were responsible for this debacle. However, I wish to thank Andy Parsons and his team for their tenacity in bringing this sad period to some closure."

A statement read out on behalf of Mr Bradley's family thanked police for the investigation and said: "It was very hard at the beginning in 1994 to learn that we had lost a brother in such a cruel way."

"We now know this was by a sadistic human being."

"We, the family, are glad that it has now finally come to an end."

"One cannot condemn the length of time this investigation has taken, and one is thankful for a conclusion to something that has been such a tragic and hard time for everyone in the Bradley family."

A statement from Mr Czyzewska's family said: "We're glad it's come to an end but we are disappointed at the outcome and sorry it is not the decision we were hoping for."

Jayne Salt, head of the West Midlands Crown Prosecution Service Complex Case-work Unit, said: "This has been a very complex case in which the police have left no stone unturned in their investigation."

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Model trains on show



A model railway exhibition was held at the Park Inn in Telford at the weekend organised by Back 2 Bay 6 in Newport. Martin Rich, from Welshpool, shows his 7mm narrow gauge model railway of a gas works called 'Nearleigh Works' which has taken him 20 years to complete. Money raised through a raffle will go towards the Tallylyn Railway which celebrates its 60th anniversary this year. Picture: Simon Williams

Caravan park plans for 18 extra pitches

OWNERS OF an Ellesmere caravan park who admit to regularly turning visitors away because a lack of room have unveiled plans to extend their site.

Robin Bebb, of Newnes Touring Caravan Park, has applied to Shropshire Council to extend the number of pitches from 20 to 38.

The scheme also involves extending the washroom facilities and installing photovoltaic panels to supply electricity to the site.

A report on behalf of applicants said: "Due to the high standards of the caravan park, it is proving particularly popular and visitors are regularly turned away because of the limited number of pitches available.

"We are confident that the development will not adversely impact upon the rural environment, the amenity of local residents and the local highway conditions.

"This is reinforced in the knowledge that when the Caravan Club rallies have taken place at the site, involving a large number of visitors, there have been no complaints about noise, nuisance or traffic."

Permanent planning permission was granted for a change of use to 10-pitch touring caravan site in 2007 and an extension to the site, including 10 further pitches was granted in January 2009.

Members of the public have until Monday to comment on the new plans as part of the consultation over the development.

Club owners bid to build new parking

THE NEW SAINTS have lodged a planning application to build an overflow car park at the club's Park Hall stadium.

They also want to use land near The Venue on Burma Road for recreation and leisure use.

In papers submitted to Shropshire Council, agent Michael Hughes said the club was seeking permission to change the use of the land, adding club owner Mike Harris was in negotiations to buy four hectares of land.

Neighbour Robyn Hawkins objected to the plans, saying: "I strongly object to this application as do many of the people I have spoken to about it."

Whittington Parish Council also aired concerns.

Winners of contest are announced

OSWESTRY PHOTOGRAPHIC Society held its summer social evening and prize night at Sweeney Hall, which marked the end of the 2010/11 season.

Trophies were awarded to prize winners and the Printer of the Year competition was held and judged by club members.

The winning print was George Griffith's *Express Fish Delivery*.

Second was *Sun Worshipper* by David Slaughter and Andrew Munro's print of Cumberland Falls came third.

New members are welcome.

For further details and contact numbers visit www.o-p-s-me.co.uk

A NEW GROUP has been formed in Oswestry in a bid to show the public all that is great about the town centre.

Campaigners, who are members of a new organisation called Oswestry Collective, say it is now vital to sing the town's praises in preparation for the impact of another supermarket.

Members of the new group are calling on people to get involved in their campaign to promote the town.

Part of that promotion will be through art and a major event has already been organised to take place at the end of the month.

The Oswestry Collective movement is in response to the go-ahead being given for a supermarket and cinema to be built on part of Oswestry's livestock market.

The move has raised concerns for the future of town traders.

Those concerns will be highlighted when an exhibition of art, film, music and infor-

mation is staged in the town centre on July 30 by the Oswestry Collective.

Jessie Miller, from the group, said: "The Oswestry Collective is about local groups getting together to promote what's good about Oswestry."

"The event is a chance for groups and individuals to come together, especially as Oswestry prepares for the impact of a major out-of-town supermarket."

As part of the project, an exhibition will be staged in the former Stationery Box premises in Bailey Street.

DJs from People's Vinyl Collective will be providing music and there will be a preview performance of Supermarket, the latest musical project by Oswestry Collective member and local musician Neil Phillips.

He will be debuting songs at 1pm on the Ironworks stand in Red Square.

He said: "I'm keen to showcase good things about Oswestry and the town centre and rally support in light of the new development to be built on the outskirts."

Firm marks milestone

A WELSHPOOL architectural firm has celebrated its first decade in business.

Hughes Architects, which has offices in Welshpool and Newtown, played host to about 100 guests, including councillors, architects and representatives of the business community at Newtown's Oriel Davies Gallery.

Doug Hughes said: "It is fantastic that so many familiar faces joined us to share our special day, which marked not only our first 10 years, but also an exciting and busy period."

Fond farewell to popular teacher

AN OSWESTRY school has said farewell to its longest serving teacher following last week's retirement of its deputy headmaster.

Ray Evanson had clocked up 33 years at Oswestry School as a teacher of economics, geography and religious studies as well as acting as school chaplain.

"I am excited to be starting a new part of my life but also sad to be leaving a major part behind," said Mr Evanson, who was presented with a cut glass tankard at the school's recent speech day.

"The chaplaincy and my involvement with the Combined Cadet Force in particular were both very rewarding parts of my work at the school. There have been so many changes over the years, particularly with the introduction of new technology which has changed the face of teaching."

"But the school has always adapted extremely well and has always remained a caring and supportive community which is very proud of its traditions."

Headmaster Douglas Robb paid tribute to Mr Evanson's commitment and said he was also director of studies and an exam officer. He said: "Ray has been a close colleague and friend during my first year as head. I will very much miss his great knowledge and advice."

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All quiet on friendly street

DOWN YOUR STREET

with Ben Bentley

"IT'S NICE and quiet round here, you probably won't find that many people out and about to talk to."

Louise Price, a resident of Greyfriars, in Oswestry, is right. Annoyingly so – I can't find a soul.

So I wait. And then I wait some more. Out of frustration and just to hear the sound of a human voice, I randomly decide to call a number painted on the side of a bloke's van parked in the street.

Bizarrely I get a woman in Worcester. "Where are you," she asks.

Evidence

I'm outside the house where you are parked, standing by your van, I tell her. I wait for the curtains to twitch, but nothing.

"No, you're not," she says. Confused, I give up. But it's killed a few minutes, by which time a man is walking down the road with some envelopes in his hand. He is William Butler, as it turns out, he is a man of letters. "I was a postman for 31 years, so I'm used to walking and carrying letters."

"This is the second time I've walked to the shops today – I forgot the letters when I went to the shop the first time."

If one needs evidence that life as a postman keeps you young, consider exhibit A, Mr Butler. When he says he's "81 years young" you imagine he's also pulling your leg. Or that he's been on 10 Years Younger and Gok Wan is about to jump out from behind the privet hedge.



Second walk to the shops – retired postman William Butler.



Louise Price on a shopping mission.



Time for a bit of pampering – Fiona Roberts gets her hair done by Harriet Edwards at Checkers.



Actually he has just had his hair cut ("my wife says it's too short!") so while I'm looking out for Gok in the greenery, I notice the gardens in Greyfriars are blooming marvellous right now, and this was once William's thing – gardening to the max.

"I did Oswestry in Bloom for years," he says. "I won a few golds. I had best resident's front garden three times."

"But I finished this year. Last

year I had a hiatus hernia and two neighbours were very good and did all the gardens – watered the baskets – but I could not do much for a long time.

"It was too much. I do miss it, but I find things to do."

Earlier when I speak to Louise Price, 27, she is carrying two Co-op bags full of shopping.

"It takes me half an hour to go to the shops because you always bump into people or you see

someone you have not seen for ages and it's like 'Oh, how are you?'

"Other times you don't see people all day – it's at night that people come out!"

Nocturns! I must admit, I don't see a nightspot on Greyfriars. Not unless there is one called 'Bungalow' and it plays music very gently to the mature set.

Louise is a friendly type, but not as friendly as her cat, Toby, who by now is rubbing my shin very firmly.

Later I see him do the same thing with a fence post.

"He's a friendly cat!" says his owner.

Even friendlier are the hairdressers on the corner of Greyfriars.

Inside Checkers, several ladies are having their hair done while talking shop. I'm here for an 11.15 chat-and-go.

Expert

"In the world of hairdressing you not only have to be an expert with a pair of scissors but an expert on last night's telly, as conversations range from the holidays, the X Factor to the weather and more news-related stories including the sad tale of the dogs that died in police car."

"That was all very sad," says stylist Fiona Roberts.

"People tell me there are more people going on holiday in this country this year – you are not guaranteed the weather but people

have not got the money to go abroad."

Run by owner Sarah Williams, Checkers customers are certainly loyal, coming from far and wide. Because it's a busy thoroughfare being next door to the Co-op, passers-by pop their heads around the door on the off-chance of an appointment; others book in advance and travel from Bangor on Dee and even Belgium.

Who cuts a hairdressers' hair? "One of us," says Fiona. The good thing about being a hairdresser is that, even in hard times, people with hair need a haircut.

"We are always busy," says Fiona. "People's hair never stops growing. There's always going to be work with hair."

Museum fun for holidays

A FULL programme of holiday events has been announced at the Powysland Museum in Welshpool.

Entertainment starts on Wednesday with crafts for all ages of children.

On August 3 "The Home Front" sees activities for children based on life in Montgomeryshire during World War Two.

August 7 sees a "Wicked Welshpool Tour" taking in all the family around the sites of the town, while there is a 'Victorian Farming' activity on August 10.

August 11 sees a "Photographic Tour" taking in stills of old Welshpool from the museum archives, followed on August 17 by "What Granny Saw" activities. Ancient Greek crafts for all ages of children will be on display in "It's All Greek To Me" on August 24 and on August 31 there will be children's arts and crafts with "Vicious Vikings".

Booking for all sessions is essential on 01938 554656, while children under eight must be accompanied.

Open event at waste station

OSWESTRY RESIDENTS can find out what happens to the waste and recycling they put out for collection today, Thursday.

The Household Recycling Centre and transfer station at the Mile Oak Industrial Estate will be open from 3pm-7pm.

Members of staff will explain what happens to the materials and give residents a 'behind the scenes' look.



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Lights are set to be dimmed

PLANS TO reduce street lighting in Ellesmere to save money and combat climate change are still set to go ahead despite being delayed.

Shropshire Council wants to pilot the scheme which would see certain street lights turned off between midnight and 5.30am.

The 12-month trial was due to begin in May but the unitary council and officers at Ellesmere Town Council have only recently approved recommendations.

Main town centre streets and those monitored by CCTV will not be considered for the pilot scheme.

Councillor Alan Clarke, mayor of Ellesmere, said: "Some recommendations have been made, but nothing has been finalised yet."

The scheme is part of a drive by Shropshire Council to save £240,000 a year and could be rolled out.

Gareth Proffitt, spokesman for Shropshire Council, said: "Ellesmere Town Council has approved the recommendation, but this now requires approval by the full town council before the trial can begin."

Users double but threat still faces bowling green

Villagers in pitch plans

RESIDENTS IN a village near Oswestry are taking action to bring their sports pitch back into use.

The Porthywaen football field has lain unused for many years, and people are now calling for funds to return the pitch to a decent state.

At last week's Llanyblodwel Parish Council meeting, councillors agreed to investigate areas of funding and what would be needed to improve the area.

Parish council clerk Amy Gregory said: "We are looking at ways that we could access funding to make improvements so that the pitch could be used."

AN OSWESTRY bowling green, which has been given 12 months to improve its use, has seen the number of players using it double, say council officials.

However it is feared the town council could take it away if it is not used by more people. The green has been given 12 months' grace before any decision is taken.

In a bid to save it, Henry Pugh, 63, of Oswestry, has now set up bowls lessons, resulting in more people using the green.

Fate

Town council figures show use by youngsters has also doubled. During last year's April to July season, there were 91 juniors using the green. This year's season has welcomed 188 juniors.

Glenys Davies, facilities manager for Oswestry Town Council, said: "The bowling green is getting more use now. The numbers have doubled this season."

The bowling season will be coming to an end later this month so the decision on its fate won't be taken until this time next year.

Mr Pugh, who teaches people the game every Tuesday, said bowling is very popular in Oswestry.

He believes Cae Glas Park is a lovely spot for bowling and that "it would be a shame to lose it." He said: "I am pleased more people come along. The bowling classes are going well." The facility costs £2,500 a year to keep open and bowlers are charged £1.60 a session or £1 for juniors.

Twins' store to entertain young

TWIN SISTERS are opening a new shop in Oswestry which could help busy mums keep their kids entertained over the holidays.

Sarah Meade, of Oswestry, and her sister Catherine Cole, from West Felton, already run the Honey Pots gift and ceramic studio in Llangollen, and are now opening a second shop in Oswestry which will offer hands-on pottery painting days for all the family.

The new shop, in Church Street, will open on Saturday, selling the extremely successful and collectable Charlie Bears range, as well as Pilgrim Jewellery, the popular Pip Studio and Gorruss gift ranges, gift cards and candles, plus Sarah and Catherine's own hand-painted pottery.

"Demand for hand painted plates for everything from wedding to christening presents has been outstripping supply as each plate is individually hand painted by us," said Sarah.

The pottery studio will open at Oswestry on Monday, and Sarah and Catherine will be sharing tips and tricks to make the pottery painting experience as rewarding as possible.

"We provide the paints, brushes and equipment along with a selection of ready to paint pre-fired ceramic pieces, from simple plates and dishes to cups and cake stands," said Sarah. We glaze and fire the items after they have been painted so they are ready for



Catherine Cole hand-paints a cupcake stand, watched by her twin sister, Sarah Meade.

collection the following week. Parents want to spend quality time with their children and many find that this is a relaxing and enjoyable activity the whole family can do together whatever their ages," Sarah said. Pottery painting will be available from July 25 by prior arrangement. Contacting Honey Pots on 01785 869008 or visit www.honey-pots.com

NEWS

in brief

Rotary clubs join forces for Africa

THE ROTARY Clubs of Oswestry and Oswestry Borderlands joined forces on Friday to collect for famine relief in East Africa and raised £847.72.

Members of the two clubs were on duty at Sainsbury's supermarket and the public's donations are being channelled through the Disaster Emergency Committee.

Rotary Club of Oswestry president Mike Jones said: "We have all been moved by the reports of the tragedy hitting this part of the world and this collection has provided an opportunity for the people of Oswestry and the surrounding area to help."

"The DEC East Africa Crisis Appeal will support the work of our members in affected areas of Kenya, Ethiopia, Somalia and South Sudan. Your donations can help provide life saving aid."

Dance night

OSWESTRY Senior Citizens club is holding a dance and social night tonight, Thursday, and on August 4 will be organising a day outing to Llandudno.

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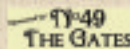
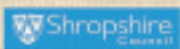
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FEATURES

Family fun day will

Advertisement feature

THIS YEAR'S "Take 2 The Streets" event in Oswestry town centre looks set to be a fantastic family fun day out with something to appeal to all age groups and tastes.

There will be live music throughout the town with two main tents on the Market and Festival Square, organised by The Ironworks, showcasing a range of local musical talent.

Treats

There will also be other music with didgeridoo healing, buskers, keyboard players and drummers out on the streets. Street entertainers and performances in association with Tribal Jam will be a feature and there will be dancing with Oswestry Stagecoach.

Earthlink will be organising a range of treats with salsa, la neuba and belly dancing on the cards. There are more than 40 town centre businesses taking part in this year's event, so there will certainly be something right up your alley, be it story telling at Oswestry Christian Bookshop, riding a bicycle to make a smoothie at Honeysuckle Wholefoods or a mooch on the Broadwalk to see the talents of the Border Visual Arts members as they display art on the railings.

Traditional

There will be a chance to get creative and have a go at painting on a giant canvas at Oswestry Framing Company, or attend a workshop with a world renowned comic strip artist at The Qube - booking essential.

Mary Poppins will be dropping in at The Market, and the trains will be running on the Cambrian Heritage Railway, and if that wasn't enough, you can have a go at archery with Whittington Castle re-enactors or even take a turn on a traditional hand-turned merry-go-round in Cae Glas Park.

There will be street stalls and demonstrations showcasing some of Oswestry's new and hidden treasures.

A family fun trail that will lead you all the way around the town centre spotting hidden mistakes within the windows of independent shops and



Volunteers manning the Footfall stand at the event.



Youngsters try their hands and feet at making a smoothie at Shlurp.



Visitors are entertained.

businesses. The first prize, donated by the newly formed Oswestry & District Chamber of Commerce, is a £100 shopping voucher which can be spent within one of the participating businesses. The first prize, donated by the newly formed Oswestry & District Chamber of Commerce, is a £100 shopping voucher which can be spent within one of the participating businesses.

nesses, with more than 30 other shopping vouchers to be won. This year the trail will run for a whole week in the run up, starting on Saturday, allowing more people to take

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"A GREAT DAY"



FEATURES

take to the streets



Follow the yellowbrick road? All dressed up for last year's Take To The Streets event.



Visitors packed the streets at last year's event.

part. Entry forms can be downloaded from www.take2thestreets.co.uk or can be collected from The Gates gift shop on Church Street or from the Oswestry Framing Company on Leg

Street. Competition forms will also be being handed out on the streets on Saturday and Wednesday.

They will be available from the information point outside Toni & Guy on



Visiting Town Crier Alan Lloyd of Newport at last year's Take To The Streets event.

Saturday, July 30. So why not speak with your feet and take to the streets of Oswestry Town Centre from 10am on Saturday, July 30, and discover the very best of Oswestry?

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NEWS

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Housing ban urged as sewerage fears grow

CAMPAIGNERS have warned water bosses that a village near Oswestry will face an "environmental health disaster" unless the sewage infrastructure is improved quickly.

And a former county councillor has called for a blanket ban on housing development until improvements are made.

More than 40 people attended a public meeting in St Martins last week to hear concerns that the water treatment infrastructure in the village was now in crisis.

Concerns

The talks were organized by the 3P Water Forum, which is made up of residents from Weston Rhyn, St Martins and Gobowen, and was attended by representatives from Severn Trent, Welsh Water and Shropshire Council, along with local councillors.

Among the concerns raised was that people in Weston Rhyn and some in St Martins have to pay an extra £150 in water charges because their sewage is disposed of by Welsh Water.

But Glenn Pennington, a member of the forum, said concerns were also raised that underground sewage infrastructure in St Martins had become overloaded and needed urgent investment.

He said: "One concern is some residents are paying more for their bills than others. We have asked for everyone in Weston Rhyn and those affected in St Martins to be dealt with by Severn Trent."

"Planning permission has been given for a further 75 homes in the village and this could cause the infrastructure to collapse."

"We have an environmental health disaster ahead of us unless action is taken and investment made."

Former Shropshire county and Oswestry borough councillor Bill Jenkins said drains in St Martins could not cope with current demand.

He said water firms should invest in the infrastructure to prevent flooding before any more building was carried out.

Tree sculpture offers a Stairway to Heaven!



Visitors head to the new tree sculpture at Ellesmere

A TREE-MENDOUS sculpture in Ellesmere has been completed and is now attracting scores of new visitors to a town trail.

The work, fashioned from a 200-year-old beech by Bulgarian artist Rumen Dimitrov, is called Stairway to Heaven and was commissioned as part of the Ellesmere Sculpture Trail.

Shropshire tree expert Rob McBride said: "Rumen's idea is that people ascend the stairway from the back of the tree and as you rise up the stairs, 'heaven' or the light comes into view."

"He is also a Led Zeppelin fan which also helped with the naming," said Mr McBride - also known as The Tree-hunter - who charts locations of ancient trees.

Carved

"It took Rumen nearly a week to complete and he had a tough time of it getting the 'block' out of the centre to be able to turn it into the rear stairs."

"The front stairs are carved out of the tree's roots."

"The beech tree had a major failure four years ago when the top fell off." The tree is recorded on the Woodland Trust's Ancient Tree Hunt Project, which is a five-year project to find, record and map 100,000 of the UK's ancient trees.

The Ellesmere Sculpture Trail features works created by international contemporary artists while attending the annual Ellesmere Sculpture Symposium, organised by the Ellesmere Sculpture Initiative.

The trail provides visitors with a free tour of Ellesmere, which is mostly accessible by wheelchair and pushchair, taking in the mere, the historic castle fields and canal.

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For more details, please call Morris Marshall & Poole on 01691 679595.

Wonderful individual home with mature walled gardens

A wonderful individual detached family home with superb outbuildings and landscaped mature one acre walled gardens, Gardeners Cottage once formed part of the grounds of Henlle Hall, near St Martins, Oswestry.

Located on a peaceful lane, the £549,950 home is near to the lovely Llangollen Canal and countryside walks with a prestigious golf course nearby, and yet only 1.5 miles from the A483.

The gardens and grounds extend to just under an acre in total, with the serpentine walled mature and landscaped gardens benefiting from a pond and views to the Hall.

The gardens are magnificent and a truly lovely feature of the property.

At the rear of the property leading out from the conservatory there is a paved patio area with path extending down to the landscaped gardens with well planted borders and beds.

The lawn area extends around to the walled vegetable garden, side gardens and pond.

There is a productive vegetable patch with many soft fruits and vegetables, greenhouse and brick built store, as well as a lawned side garden.

To the front of the property a large gravelled parking forecourt provides ample parking and turning space. There are also two garages at the front.

There is a barn in the grounds which is separated into three rooms on the ground floor and a further three on the first floor.

There is also storage available in the solid fuel room, the potting shed and an open store.

Inside the property the ground floor features a ground floor shower room, dining room with wood block floor, sitting room with a beautiful open fire with random stone surround, home office, conservatory, and kitchen with Aga with two ovens and two hot plates over.

Stairs rise from the dining room to the first floor landing, which gives access to the four bedrooms, family bathroom and separate wc.

The master bedroom has a walk-in wardrobe area with fitted wardrobes inside.

For more information or to arrange a viewing please contact Halls in Oswestry on 01691 670320.



High specification for recently-built Selattyn residence

A spacious and well planned residence, Rock House, Selattyn, is a recently-constructed detached house approximately three miles from Oswestry.

With high specification fittings throughout, the accommodation includes a kitchen/dining room with utility, three bedrooms, bathroom, sitting room and master bedroom with ensuite. There is an enclosed garden to the rear, and ample parking.

Available for £269,950, please contact Bowen Son & Watson on 01691 652367 or visit www.bowensoandwatson.co.uk



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PROPERTIES OF THE WEEK



Period house in village position with views all around

On the market for £230,000, number 1 Woolston Road, West Felton, is an attractive semi-detached period house occupying an edge of village rural position. The three bedroomed-house has kitchen, large living/dining room, conservatory, sitting room, shower room and Jack and Jill bathroom. There is garaging and a workshop, parking for two/three cars, and attractive views all around.

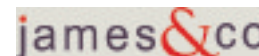
For more information please contact 01691 653437 or www.jjdell.co.uk



Charming cottage with potential in rural location

Number 2 Ivy Cottages, Nant y Caws, is a charming semi detached cottage situated in a rural, but not isolated, location approximately one mile from Morda. The home has two bedrooms and expansive gardens, and has a negotiable asking price of £155,000. The property would benefit from some updating but has a useful garage block and oil fired central heating.

For more information please contact James and Co on 01691 657077 or www.jamesandcoproperty.co.uk



Secluded stone-built country property in idyllic location

Ceunant Du, Moelfre, near Oswestry, is a secluded stone built country property, in an idyllic rural location, with outbuildings and land. It is for sale through Strutt & Parker at £360,000. It has a drawing room, sitting room, dining room, kitchen, study, ground floor bathroom, three bedrooms, two outbuildings, garden and land in about 1.39 acres. In an isolated rural position, with spectacular views over open countryside. The property is stone built and has versatile accommodation set over two floors.

For more information please contact Strutt & Parker on 01743 284200 or www.struttandparker.com



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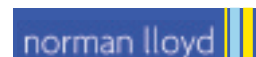
PROPERTIES OF THE WEEK



Period stone cottage with an annexe and 5 acres of land

Ty Nant, Sychtyn, Nantmawr, Oswestry, is a delightful period stone cottage in a hamlet with many original features and an annexe. It is for sale through Norman Lloyd for £395,000. The property has oil fired central heating and the accommodation includes a lounge, kitchen, bathroom, bedroom and an annexe with a sitting room, gallery landing bedroom and shower room on the ground floor with two further bedrooms on the first floor. Outside are delightful gardens, a stream and land extending to around 5.07 Acres.

For more information please contact Norman Lloyd on 01691 653243 or www.normanlloyd.co.uk



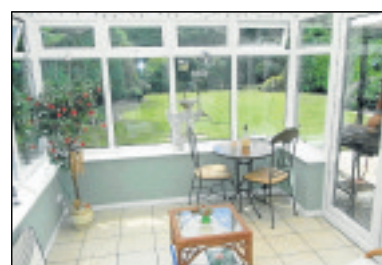
Immaculate three-bed home in quiet cul-de-sac

Number 14 The Nurseries, Maes Y Waun, Chirk, is on the market for offers in the region of £183,000.

An extremely well presented three-bedroom detached house in an end of cul-de-sac position, the property comprises entrance hall, cloakroom, lounge, dining room, conservatory, breakfast kitchen, three bedrooms and a bathroom.

There is a garage to the side, off road parking and front and rear gardens.

For more information please contact Samuel Wood and Company on 01691 659952 or visit www.samuelwood.co.uk



Four-bedroom detached property with a large garden

Oaklands, 42 School Lane, St Martins, is a four-bedroom detached house with a large, private, rear garden extending more than 30m. Available for £185,950 with no chain, the home has a log burner stove in the lounge, an Edwardian style conservatory, loft storage and a lovely dining room overlooking the garden. There is driveway parking for up to four cars.

For more information please contact 01691 679631 or visit www.townandcountryoswestry.com



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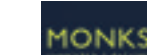
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**30 PRIMROSE TERRACE
ST MICHAELS STREET**
£129,000



- A neatly kept mature 2 bed terraced town house
- Well appointed and improved accommodation
- Gas fired CH, modern kitchen, neatly appointed bathroom
- Attractive landscaped garden to the rear, gravelled parking area
- Popular and convenient location



7 MILL MEADOW LAUNDRY LANE

A extremely attractive, spacious and well maintained 4 bedroom detached family house, situated in a quiet cul-de-sac position, close to the nearby town centre and excellent local amenities.

The accommodation has the benefit of gas fired CH, DG, full insulation and briefly comprises; entrance porch, entrance hall, cloakroom, lounge, dining room, conservatory, study, fitted kitchen/breakfast room, utility room, master bedroom with dressing room and en suite bathroom, second bedroom with en suite shower room, 2 further bedrooms and family bathroom. Detached double garage and parking. professionally landscaped rear garden.

£425,000



**69 ASHFIELDS ROAD
HEATH FARM**
£167,500

A particularly well maintained and well appointed modern 3 bedroomed semi-detached family house occupying an enviable position on this popular and established residential development, well placed within easy reach of excellent amenities.

The accommodation benefits from gas fired CH and DG and briefly comprises entrance vestibule, lounge, dining room/kitchen, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, garage, parking and front and rear gardens.



**50 SEVERN STREET
CASTLEFIELDS**
£169,500

A superbly well appointed and maintained end terraced residence which has been fully modernised throughout giving excellent accommodation, situated within walking distance of Shrewsbury town centre with all its amenities. Inspection highly recommended.

The spacious accommodation benefits from gas fired CH, partial PVCu DG, and briefly comprises; entrance hall, kitchen, living room, cellar, utility area and rear hall, cloakroom, bedroom to first floor with en-suite bathroom and second floor bedroom with en-suite shower room, walled rear garden.

**42 THE RIDINGS
GAINS PARK**
£110,000



- A modern 2 bedroomed end terraced house
- Neatly kept, well appointed versatile accommodation
- Gas fired CH and DG
- Neatly kept, well stocked garden, communal parking area
- Popular residential development close to amenities



**6 ST ANTHONY'S ROAD
COLLEGEFIELDS**
£159,500

- A modern 2 bed semi-detached house
- Well planned and well proportioned accommodation
- Gas fired CH, DG
- Garage, ample parking space, good sized enclosed garden to the rear
- Cul-de-sac position in popular development, close to local amenities



**2 CORNMILL
SQUARE
ST MICHAELS
STREET**
£189,500

A well maintained and appointed town house of character, in this popular and sought after residential area, within walking distance of the town centre with all its amenities and transport facilities.

The accommodation has the benefit of gas fired CH and briefly comprises; entrance hall, cloakroom, large lounge/dining room, kitchen, master bedroom and en suite shower room, 2 further bedrooms and bathroom. Designated parking space, communal grounds.

**121
ABBAY FOREGATE**
£565,000

An outstanding Grade II Listed Georgian town house superbly restored with integral flat, walled rear garden and parking for 2 cars, situated close to the historic Shrewsbury town centre and within easy walking distance the town centre.

Reception hall, drawing room, dining room, family room, kitchen, utility/cloakroom, cellars, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms with en-suite options. Internal flat with 2 further bedrooms, sitting room, bathroom & fitted kitchen. Parking. Gardens to front and rear. Fully rewired, zoned gas central heating.



**46 MYTTON OAK ROAD
COPTHORNE**
£169,500

A particularly attractive, well appointed and well maintained 2 bedroom cottage residence, situated in this popular highly desirable and particularly convenient location.

The accommodation has the benefit of gas fired CH and DG and briefly comprises; entrance vestibule, sitting room, dining room, kitchen, Bedroom and bathroom to the first floor. Second bedroom to the second floor. Attractive gardens to fore and rear. Forecourt providing parking for one car.



**12 WESTWOOD
DRIVE
COPTHORNE**
£279,000

A particularly well maintained and immaculately presented, modern, detached 4 bedroom family house, with attractive and neatly kept gardens, situated in this popular residential location, on the western side of Shrewsbury, well placed within reach of excellent schools, amenities and the nearby town centre.

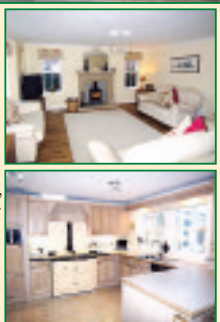
The accommodation has the benefit of gas fired CH and DG and briefly comprises; entrance hall, shower room, lounge, dining room, conservatory, kitchen, utility room, 4 bedrooms and bathroom. Double garage, parking. Attractive front and rear gardens.



**10 DALTON DRIVE
THE MOUNT**
£429,000

A superior, improved, detached 4 bedroom family house, situated in a pleasant cul-de-sac position on this highly desirable and sought after exclusive residential development.

Entrance porch, reception hall, cloakroom, lounge, breakfast room/family room, kitchen, utility room, dining room, conservatory, master bedroom with en suite shower room, guest bedroom with en suite shower room, 2 further bedrooms and principal bathroom. Double garage, ample parking. Gas CH. DG. Neatly kept, well stocked gardens.



**30 RYELANDS
RADBROOK**

A particularly well maintained and well appointed, superior detached family residence situated in this much sought after and highly desirable residential cul-de-sac.

The property benefits from gas-fired CH, DG and briefly comprises :- spacious entrance hall, cloakroom, attractive lounge, dining room, fitted breakfast kitchen with adjoining utility room, study, master bedroom with en suite shower room, guest bedroom 2 with en suite shower room, bedroom 3, spacious reception landing/sitting room (originally bedrooms 4 and 5), this conversion could easily be reversed if additional bedroom accommodation is required, well appointed family bathroom. Double garage, ample parking space. Good sized, neatly kept well stocked landscaped garden.

£350,000



**15 MALLARD CLOSE
SUNDORNE**
£110,000

- Modern terraced residence in cul-de-sac position
- 2 beds, bathroom
- Large living room/dining room, kitchen
- DG and gas fired CH
- Front and rear gardens, garden shed, convenient for local amenities



**14 LUDFORD DRIVE
HEATH FARM**
£147,000

- A modern 3 bed semi-detached family house
- Neatly kept and well maintained throughout
- Gas fired CH, DG
- Ample parking, neatly kept gardens to front and rear
- Pleasant cul-de-sac position, popular residential development close to excellent amenities



**132 CROWMERE
ROAD
MONKMOOR**
£195,000

A spacious, extended and much improved, semi-detached, 5 bedroom family house, situated in this convenient location, well placed within reach of excellent local school, amenities and the town centre.

The accommodation has the benefit of gas fired CH and DG and briefly comprises; entrance hall, cloakroom, lounge, sitting room, dining kitchen, utility room, master bedroom with en suite shower room, 4 further bedrooms and family bathroom. Ample parking, attractive, well stocked, enclosed rear garden.